In the claims:

Claim 1 cancelled.

2. (previously presented) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 24, wherein the bracing means (18, 18') is configured for bracing on both sides against shear forces on the saw blade (12).

3. (previously presented) The handheld power saw as defined claim 24, wherein the bracing means (18, 18') is configured as a slide bearing.

4. (withdrawn) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 24, wherein the coupling means (10) is configured as a detent coupling.

5. (previously presented) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 24, wherein the bracing means (18, 18') forms a two-dimensional contact face (46).

6. (previously presented) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 5, further including the saw blade (12), wherein the contact face (46) has a length (48) of at least 2 cm in a longitudinal direction (26) of the saw blade (12).

7. (withdrawn) A handheld power saw, comprising a housing (20b), having a contact element (22b) for bracing the housing (20b) on a workpiece and a saw

blade (12b), movable in oscillating fashion in a first direction (26b), with at least one cutting edge (30b) pointing in a working direction (28b), wherein the contact element (22b) is supported displaceably relative to the housing (20b).

8. (withdrawn) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 7, wherein the contact element (22b) is displaceable, with a front edge (32b) pointing in the working direction (28b), at least as far as a height of the cutting edge (30b).

9. (withdrawn) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 7, wherein the contact element (22b) has a recess (34b) that is open in the working direction (28b).

10. (withdrawn) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 7, further comprising a spring element (36b) for restoring the contact element (22b) to a position of repose.

11. (withdrawn) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 7, further comprising a detent element (24b) for locking the contact element (22b) in a detent position.

12. (withdrawn) A saw blade (12) for a handheld power saw, comprising an oscillatory drive mechanism (38), a retention region (40) which is intended for connection with a coupling means (10) of the handheld power saw, and a guide region (42) for contact of a lateral bracing means (18, 18') of the handheld power saw.

13. (withdrawn) The saw blade (12) as defined by claim 12, wherein the guide region (42) has a greater thickness of material than a work region (44) with a cutting edge (30).

14. (withdrawn) The saw blade (12) as defined by claim 12, wherein the guide region (42) and the work region (44) are joined by a laser welding process.

Claim 15 cancelled.

16. (currently amended) A handheld power saw, comprising a coupling means (10) for retaining and driving a saw blade (12) and connecting the saw blade (12) to a lifting rod (64) in an installed state of the saw blade (12), wherein the coupling means (10) comprises a clamping sleeve (60) into which upon assembly a T-shaped extension (62) of a retaining region (40) of the saw blade (12) is inserted along an insertion direction of the saw blade (12), and a guide assembly (14) for guiding an oscillating motion (16) of the saw blade (12), wherein the guide assembly (14) includes at least one lateral bracing means (18, 18') located ~~between the saw blade (12) and the lifting rod (64) in a region of the coupling means (10)~~along the insertion direction of the saw blade (12) in front of the clamping sleeve (60) and shielding the coupling means (10) from shear forces acting on the saw blade (12), wherein the guide assembly (14) includes a pressure roller (52), supported in sliding fashion on a bolt (50) and a pressure bolt (68) for directly guiding the saw blade (12), wherein the bolt (50) and the

pressure bolt (68) are inserted in recesses which are provided in the bracing means (18, 18').

Claim 17 cancelled.

18. (currently amended) The handheld power saw as defined by claim ~~15~~16, wherein the pressure roller (52) guides the saw blade (12) at a reverse edge of ~~a~~the saw blade (12) which faces aware from cutting edge (30) of the saw blade (12).

19. (currently amended) The handheld power saw as defined by claim ~~1~~24, wherein two lateral bracing means (18, 18') are provided.

20. (currently amended) The handheld power saw as defined by claim ~~19~~24, wherein in an installed state of the saw blade (12) the two bracing means (18, 18') are located mirror-symmetrically beside the saw blade (12).

21. (previously presented) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 1, wherein the bracing means (18, 18') is composed of graphite-containing, lubricant-filled sintered bronze.

22. (currently amended) The handheld power saw as defined by claim ~~1~~24, wherein the bracing means (18, 18') has a rounded area (72) in a front region of

the bracing means (18, 18') facing ~~the saw blade (12)~~away from the clamping sleeve (80).

23. (currently amended) A handheld power saw, comprising a coupling means (10) for retaining and driving a saw blade (12) and connecting the saw blade (12) to a lifting rod (64) in an installed state of the saw blade (12), wherein the coupling means (10) comprises a clamping sleeve (60) into which upon assembly a T-shaped extension (62) of a retaining region (40) of the saw blade (12) is inserted along an insertion direction of the saw blade (12), and a guide assembly (14) for guiding an oscillating motion (16) of the saw blade (12), wherein the guide assembly (14) includes at least one lateral bracing means (18, 18') located ~~between the saw blade (12) and the lifting rod (64) in a region of the coupling means (10)~~along the insertion direction of the saw blade (12) in front of the clamping sleeve (60) and shielding the coupling means (10) from shear forces acting on the saw blade (12, wherein in an installed state of the saw blade (12) ~~the~~a contact face (46) of the bracing means (18, 18') abuts on a guide region (42) of the saw blade (12), located in a working direction (28) between a retaining region (40) of the saw blade (12) and a work region (44) of the saw blade (12), and wherein the guide assembly includes a pressure roller (52), supported in sliding fashion on a bolt (50), and a pressure bolt (68) for guiding the saw blade (12).

24. (currently amended) A hand-held power saw, comprising a lifting rod (64); a saw blade (12) connected with said lifting rod (64) in an installed state of said saw blade (12) and movable in an oscillating motion (16); coupling means (10) for

retaining and driving said saw blade (12) and connecting said saw blade (12) to said lifting rod (64); a guide assembly (14) for guiding ~~the oscillation~~said oscillating motion (16) of ~~the~~said saw blade (12), wherein said guide assembly (14) includes at least one lateral bracing means (18a, 18a') for shielding said coupling means (10) from shear forces acting on said saw blade (12), wherein said coupling means (10) comprises a clamping sleeve (60) into which upon assembly a T-shaped extension (62) of a retaining region (40) of said saw blade (12) is inserted along an insertion direction of said saw blade (12), wherein said bracing means (18a, 18a') is located ~~in a region of said coupling means (10)~~along said insertion direction of said saw blade (12) in front of said clamping sleeve (60) and directly guides said saw blade (12) during its oscillating motion (16).

25. (new) A handheld power saw, comprising a housing (20); a lifting rod (64); a drive mechanism (38) driving said lifting rod (64) to oscillate linearly; a saw blade (12) connected with said lifting rod (64) in an installed state of said saw blade (12) and movable in an oscillating motion (16); coupling means (10) for retaining and driving said saw blade (12) and connecting said saw blade (12) to said lifting rod (64); a guide assembly (14) for guiding said oscillating motion (16) of said saw blade (12), wherein said guide assembly (14) includes at least one lateral bracing means (18a, 18a') for shielding said coupling means (10) from shear forces acting on said saw blade (12), wherein said coupling means (10) comprises a clamping sleeve (60) into which upon assembly a T-shaped extension (62) of a retaining region (40) of said saw blade (12) is inserted along an insertion direction of said saw blade (12), wherein said bracing means

(18a, 18a') is located along said insertion direction of said saw blade (12) in front of said clamping sleeve (60) and directly guides said saw blade (12) during its oscillating motion (16) and wherein said lifting rod (64), said coupling means (10) and said guide assembly (14) are located in said housing (20).

26. (new) A handheld power saw, comprising a housing (20); a lifting rod (64); a drive mechanism (38) embodied as an electric motor driving said lifting rod (64) to oscillate linearly; a saw blade (12) connected with said lifting rod (64) in an installed state of said saw blade (12) and movable in an oscillating motion (16); at least one coupling means (10) for retaining and driving said saw blade (12) and connecting said saw blade (12) to said lifting rod (64); a guide assembly (14) for guiding said oscillating motion (16) of said saw blade (12), wherein said guide assembly (14) includes at least one lateral bracing means (18a, 18a') for shielding said coupling means (10) from shear forces acting on said saw blade (12), wherein said coupling means (10) comprises a clamping sleeve (60) into which upon assembly a T-shaped extension (62) of a retaining region (40) of said saw blade (12) is inserted along an insertion direction of said saw blade (12), wherein said bracing means (18a, 18a') is located along said insertion direction of said saw blade (12) in front of said clamping sleeve (60) and directly guides said saw blade (12) during its oscillating motion (16), wherein said bracing means (18a, 18a') forms a slide bearing for displaceably supporting said saw blade (12) in a plane defined by said saw blade (12), wherein said bracing means (18a, 18a') forms a two-dimensional contact face (46) for said saw blade (12), wherein said contact face (46) abuts on a guide region (42) of the saw blade (12) to stiffen said saw blade (12) in said guide region (42) located between said retaining region (40) and a work region (12) of

said saw blade (12) featuring a cutting edge (30), wherein the guide assembly includes a pressure roller (52), supported in sliding fashion on a bolt (50) and a pressure bolt (68) for guiding the saw blade (12), wherein the bolt (50), and the pressure bolt (68) are inserted in recesses provided in the bracing means (18,18'), and wherein said lifting rod (64), said coupling means (10) and said guide assembly (14) are located in said housing (20).